

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-86. (*Canceled*)

87. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank, said method comprising:

 providing a longitudinal glass tube,

 providing a longitudinal mold having a flat sided polygonal shape,

 positioning said longitudinal glass tube proximate said longitudinal mold,

 heating said longitudinal glass tube,

 applying a deforming fluid pressure to said heated longitudinal glass tube wherein said glass tube deforms and conforms to said mold,

 cooling said deformed glass tube to provide a flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube, and

 cutting a flat side from said flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube.

88. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a SiO₂ soot tube and consolidating the soot tube into a glass.

89. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes depositing SiO₂ soot on a support member.

90. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a silicon oxyfluoride glass tube.

91. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a glass tube comprised of silicon dioxide.

92. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a high purity fused silica glass tube.

93. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said glass tube with said mold and expanding said glass tube into contact with said mold.

94. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said mold with said glass tube and collapsing said glass tube onto said mold.

95-101. (*Canceled*)

102. (*Original*) A method of making a low OH silicon oxyfluoride glass blank said method comprising

 providing a SiO₂ soot

 exposing said soot to a chlorine containing atmosphere to remove OH from said soot

 terminating exposure to said chlorine atmosphere

 flushing residual chlorine from the soot

 consolidating said soot into a silicon oxyfluoride glass having an OH level less than 1 ppm.

103. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a He containing atmosphere.

Appl. No.: 10/733,009
Amdt. Dated: July 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: May 10, 2004

104. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a F containing atmosphere.